

2015-J2998

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Maryclaire Sherwin, beloved mother and grandmother, and pillar of the Malone, New York, community

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to citizens of the State of New York whose lifework and civic endeavor served to enhance the quality of life in their communities and the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Maryclaire Sherwin of Malone, New York, died on April 25, 2015, at the age of 95; she was born on January 27, 1920, to Henry W. Boyce and Mary Fairchild Boyce, and grew up in Scarsdale, New York, along with her sisters, Dorothy and Helen, and brother, Henry (Harry); and

WHEREAS, Maryclaire Sherwin attended the Ursuline School, New Rochelle, New York, which gave her a lifelong devotion to both education and the Catholic Church; she also served on the bishop's advisory council for the Diocese of Ogdensburg for a number of years; and

WHEREAS, In 1941, Maryclaire Sherwin earned her Bachelor's degree in Chemistry from New Rochelle College; after graduating, she was employed as a Secretary for a chemical company; subsequently, she received her Master's degree in Counseling from Syracuse University; and

WHEREAS, On January 10, 1942, Maryclaire married her high school sweetheart, Dr. Carl Paxson Sherwin Jr.; six years later, the couple moved to Malone, New York, where he opened a medical practice; they were married for almost 30 years; and

WHEREAS, A devout Catholic her entire life, Maryclaire Sherwin attended daily Mass for many years until illness made it difficult; she supported Pope John XXIII in his efforts to make the Catholic Church more relevant to Catholics and all people; and

WHEREAS, Maryclaire Sherwin was an enthusiastic reader and student of

philosophy, particularly Catholic theologians such as St. Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, and Pierre Teilhard de Chardin; she was very proud of her Ursuline education, both for its educational rigor and emphasis on social consciousness, and greatly admired the Jesuit approach to education and their support for the poor; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Maryclaire Sherwin was friends with Dan and the late Phil Berrigan, brothers who were Priests and American peace activists, and was moved by their belief that putting their faith into action required them to work against war, militarization and the oppression of the poor; and

WHEREAS, Maryclaire Sherwin distinguished herself in her profession and by her sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of her community; and

WHEREAS, In 1972, Maryclaire Sherwin established Planned Parenthood in the North Country, and served as its Executive Director for 15 years; in this capacity, she was a strong advocate of women's rights; and

WHEREAS, From the time her older children were in their early teens, Maryclaire Sherwin drove them to Lake Placid, New York, every Saturday during the winter months to ski; in 1969, she received her first pair of metal skis, and was an avid downhill skier from then on and into her 90s; and

WHEREAS, Moreover, Maryclaire Sherwin enjoyed other outdoor sports such as horseback riding, golf, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, canoeing and hiking; until the last few months of her life, she regularly exercised in the gym and participated in yoga classes at the YMCA; and

WHEREAS, Maryclaire Sherwin's commitment to excellence, and her spirit of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, This remarkable woman was active in community affairs and in regional politics, campaigning for numerous candidates running for vari-

ous offices, including her loved ones; she was a member of the Malone Golf and College Club, and the New York State Board for Professional Medical Conduct for over two decades; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, she was involved as a member of an education committee responsible for awarding scholarships to students at Franklin Academy High School in Malone; in recognition of her community involvement and dedication, the local YMCA was named the Maryclaire Sherwin Greater Malone Area YMCA in her honor; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by her husband, Dr. Carl Paxson Sherwin Jr., and partner of almost 40 years, Irving Caplan, and daughter, Mary Timothy Slack, as well as her siblings, Maryclaire Sherwin is survived by eight children, Carl (Barbara Jo) Sherwin, Claire (Paul) Grace, Boyce Sherwin and Mary Scharf, Ralph Sherwin and Dorothee Schmid, Susan Sherwin-Albert and Ted Albert, Meg Sherwin, John (Juana) Sherwin, and Peter (Kirsten) Sherwin; 11 grandchildren, Elizabeth (Enrico), Erin (Corey), Paxson, Margaret (James), Maryclaire Grace, Henry, Morgan, Caleb, Nicholas (Rachel), Justin, and Christopher (Andrea); 11 great-grandchildren, Benjamin, Josh, Mary, Ethan, Darius, Camden, Hayden, Rowan, Trey, Rebecca and Michael; and many nieces and nephews; as well as two children of her partner, Randi (Linda Newmark) Caplan, and Mark (Georgette) Caplan; and two grandchildren, Brynn and Liam Caplan; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Maryclaire Sherwin leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all she served and befriended; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Maryclaire Sherwin, beloved mother and grandmother, and pillar of the Malone, New York, community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Maryclaire Sherwin.